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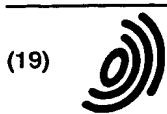
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(54) **Fat continuous dispersions**

(57) Fat continuous, substantially waterfree dispersions of fat, a particulated sweetener and a viscosity and/or yield value reducing component are obtained by using ≥ 0.005 wt% of a long chain alcohol with ≥ 20 C-atoms in the dispersion.

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Description

[0001] Fat continuous dispersions are often applied in food products, typical examples of these products are confectionery compositions such as chocolate or chocolate like compositions but also fillings, both for confectionery and bakery, coatings, sweet spreads, bakery toppings, biscuit creams and ice-cream inclusions and/or coatings are examples hereof.

In many of these products the use of these dispersions have a number of draw backs. Eg it was found that lower fat contents than usual were difficult to achieve. Further uniform layers and coatings could only be obtained with great difficulties, pumping and handling were often problematic, aeration and whipping of the compositions was not always easy, throughputs of fillings made with it were often too low to enable commercial processing, application of coatings on ice creams often led to problems with dry-and dripping times during coating and to too low through puts.

[0002] Many of above problems can be attributed to a too high viscosity and/or yield value of the compositions. Attempts to lower these rheological parameters resulted in the finding that the use of a synthetic component (Admul-wol) could improve the rheology, in particular the yield value. However Admul-wol is a product that is only allowed in very small quantities in food and has to be prepared chemically. Therefore a need existed to develop a natural component that could take over the property of lowering the viscosity of fat dispersions that are applied in the confectionery area. These fat dispersions should be fat continuous and at least contain fat, a particulated sweetener and the viscosity reducing component. Further these dispersions should be substantially water free to enable their application in chocolate or chocolate like products.

[0003] We therefore performed a study in order to find new fat continuous dispersions with relatively low viscosity and/or yield value at the temperature the dispersions are applied.

[0004] Above study resulted in the finding of novel fat continuous, substantially water free dispersions of at least fat, a particulated sweetener and a viscosity reducing component, wherein the sweetener is present for at least 5 wt% while the viscosity/yield value reducing component is present for at least 0.005 wt% and is selected from long chain alcohols with at least 20 C-atoms.

[0005] In these dispersions the viscosity/yield value reducing component is a long chain alcohol. Such components per se are known for a number of beneficial health effects, such as their ability to lower blood cholesterol levels. These effects are disclosed in eg EP 654 252 and WO 94/07830. It will be self evident that these effects also will be found for our compositions.

Even the use of these components in health-food products such as stamina cookies, health drinks, Neketsu drink and ginseng is disclosed (cf Comline Biotechn and Med. June 1991, p. 3 and Cosm and Toiletaries Aug 1991). However nothing is disclosed about the use of these components for lowering the viscosity or yield value of fat dispersion containing a sweetener.

[0006] Long chain alcohols can be obtained from natural sources such as palm tree, shrubs, cane sugar, cereals, seeds, sheep, insects etc. Commercial products derived from sugar cane, rice bran, sweet sorghum, wheat germ, sunflower seeds are available.

[0007] Preferred fat continuous dispersions are those wherein the long chain alcohol with at least 20 C-atoms is present in amounts of 0.005-10 wt%, preferably in amounts of 0.01-8 wt%, more preferably in amounts of 0.02-5 wt%, most preferably in amounts of 0.05-3 wt%.

[0008] Preferred viscosity/yield value reducing components are straight chain alcohols with 24-34, most preferably with 26-30 C-atoms. A brief summary of commercially available products, that were tested by us (cf: our examples) is given in the table below:

Component long-chain alcohols (%)						
Sample	C24	C26	C28	C30	C32	C34
Garuda (Octacosanol PN)	2.1	8.4	67.9	12.6	5.9	3.1
Carnauba	0.7	0.0	0.6	12.0	69.3	17.5
Rice bran wax	9.7	11.6	17.8	25.4	19.1	16.3
Sugar cane wax	2.5	4.7	64.9	12.7	12.7	2.5

[0009] The sweetener in our dispersion can be present in amounts of 10-80 wt%, preferably in amounts of 20-60 wt%. The sweetener can be selected from the group consisting of: glucose, fructose, sucrose, maltose, lactose, sorbitol, lactitol, mannitol, maltitol, xylitol, maltodextrin and polydextrose.

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[0010] The fat in our dispersions can be present in amounts of 20-80 wt%, preferably 25-60 wt%. Preferred fats have a solid fat content (measured by NMR-pulse on a non stabilised fat) of more than 15 at 20 °C, preferably more than 25 and less than 10 at 35 °C, preferably less than 5. Non stabilised means that the valid fat content was measured after melting at 80 °C, cooling to 0 °C and maintaining fat at measurement T for 30 min.

Very suitable fats are fats from the group consisting of: cocoa butter or fractions thereof, shea or fractions thereof, illipe or fractions thereof, palm oil fractions, palm kernel oil or fractions thereof, polyol poly esters and saturated triglycerides with fatty acid residues with mixed chain length, in particular having 2-12 and 16-24 C-atoms respectively.

The dispersions further can contain the conventional ingredients and additives present in confectionery products.

[0011] Chocolate or chocolate-like products comprising a fat continuous dispersion, wherein the fat continuous dispersion is the dispersion of claims 1-8 are also part of our invention. The same applies for confectionery or bakery fillings, sweet spreads, bakery toppings, coatings, biscuit creams or ice-cream inclusions and/or coatings comprising a fat continuous fat dispersion, wherein the fat continuous dispersion is the dispersion of claims 1-8.

[0012] Another embodiment of our invention is laid in the use of a viscosity/yield value lowering component in fat continuous dispersions wherein a long chain alcohol with at least 20 C-atoms is applied to lower the viscosity/yield value at working temperature of a fat continuous dispersion comprising particulated sweetener in amounts of more than 5 wt%.

EXAMPLES

I. The following recipes were applied:

[0013]

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Dark chocolate (Callebaut) + 5 % cocoa butter |
| 2. | Dark chocolate (Callebaut) + 5 % cocoa butter + 0.1 % Octacosanol* |
| 3. | Dark chocolate(Callebaut) + 5 % cocoa butter + 0.2 % Octacosanol |
| 4. | Dark chocolate (Callebaut) + 5 % cocoa butter + 0.4 % Octacosanol |

* Octacosanol is a product from Garuda containing more than 95 wt% long chain alcohol, from which 67.9 wt% is C28 straight chain alcohol.

[0014] The recipes were prepared by melting the chocolate and adding liquid cocoa butter. The Octacosanol was added to the different batches. The chocolates were stored at 60 °C for 1 hr, and then at 50 °C for 24 hours.

[0015] The viscosities (η) and yield values (τ_0) were measured in a Haake Rotoviscometer (system MV-2). The shear rate regime applied was: 10 min at 6.7 r.p.m, followed by 0 to 30 r.p.m within 2 min.

Results obtained are:

Sample	τ_0 at 50 °C in PA	η at 50 °C in Pas
1	9.8	0.33
2	7.5	0.33
3	7.2	0.30
4	6.8	0.28

The chocolates were tempered in a Leatherhead-kettle, and bars were moulded.

[0016] Bars made from above chocolate demonstrated that the bloom performance and the gloss of the products based on samples 2-4 were similar to the bloom and gloss of the reference (=sample 1).

[0017] From above it can be concluded that the addition of Octacosanol has a clear benefit on the viscosity and yield value at 50 °C. This made the handling of the chocolate far easier.

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II. We repeated above procedure, using Callebaut without the 5% cocoa butter, adding 0 and 0.4 wt% of the octacosanol. The results were:

[0018]

	τ_o	η
Callebaut	13.6	0.46
Callebaut + 0.4% policosanol	8.3	0.33

III. Two comparative recipes were made, based on the use of hardened oil fractions instead of Octacosanol. Herein the following recipes were applied:

[0019]

Rec 1: 99.6 Callebaut/0.4% hardened soybean oil
slip mpt. 65°C

and

Rec 2: 99.6% Callebaut/0.4% hardened palm oil
s mpt 58°C

[0020] The results obtained were:

	τ_o at 50°C	η at 50°C
Rec 1:	12.0	0.44
Rec 2:	12.6	0.49

IV. The following blends were made:

[0021]

1.	100	Dark Callebaut chocolate
2.	98.8/0.2	Dark Callebaut chocolate/long chain alcohol ex Carnauba wax

[0022] Dark Callebaut consists of:

45 wt% cocoa mass
10.7 wt% cocoa butter
43.9 wt% sugar
0.38 wt% lecithin
0.02 wt% vanilla

[0023] The blends were made by melting the chocolate and adding the long chain alcohol as a solid. The chocolate was heated for 4 hours at 70°C to melt the long chain alcohol. The viscosity was measured at 70°C using a Haake Rotovisco RV 20.

	At 70°C	
	τ -0	η
Sample 1	11.92	0.2025
Sample 2	10.62	0.1956

V The following blends were made:

[0024]

- rec. 1. 99.6/0.4 Dark Callebaut chocolate/long chain alcohol ex Ricebran wax
 rec. 2. 99.6/0.4 Dark Callebaut chocolate/ long chain alcohol ex Sugarcane wax

[0025] The blends were made by melting the chocolate and adding the long chain alcohol solid. The chocolate was heated for 4 hours at 70°C to melt the long chain alcohol. The chocolate was cooled till 50°C and viscosity was measured at 50°C using a Haake Rotovisco RV 20.

	At 50°C	
	τ -0	η
Rec 1	7.8	0.44
Rec 2	7.9	0.43

Claims

1. Fat continuous, substantially water free dispersions of at least fat, a particulated sweetener and a viscosity and/or yield value reducing component, wherein the sweetener is present for at least 5 wt% while the viscosity and/or yield value reducing component is present for at least 0.005 wt% and is selected from long chain alcohols with at least 20 C-atoms.
2. Fat continuous dispersion according to claim 1, wherein the long chain alcohol with at least 20 C-atoms is present in amounts of 0.005-10 wt%, preferably in amounts of 0.01-8 wt%, more preferably in amounts of 0.02-5 wt%, most preferably in amounts of 0.05-3 wt%.
3. Fat continuous dispersion according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the viscosity and/or yield value reducing component is a straight chain alcohol with 24-34 C-atoms.
4. Fat continuous dispersions according to claims 1-3, wherein the sweetener is present in amounts of 10-80 wt%, preferably 20-60 wt%.
5. Fat continuous dispersion according to claims 1-4, wherein the sweetener is selected from the group consisting of: glucose, fructose, sucrose, maltose, lactose, sorbitol, lactitol, mannitol, maltitol, xylitol, maltodextrin and polydextrose.
6. Fat continuous dispersion according to claims 1-5, wherein the fat phase is present in amounts of 20-80 wt%, preferably 25-60 wt%.
7. Fat continuous dispersion according to claims 1-6, wherein the fat has a solid fat content (measured by NMR-pulse on a non stabilised fat) of more than 15 at 20 °C, preferably more than 25 and less than 10 at 35 °C, preferably less than 5.

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8. Fat continuous dispersion according to claims 1-7 wherein the fat is selected from the group consisting of: cocoa butter or fractions thereof, shea or fractions thereof, illipe or fractions thereof, palm oil fractions, palm kernel oil or fractions thereof, polyol poly esters and saturated triglycerides with fatty acid residues with mixed chain length, in particular having 2-12 and 16-24 C-atoms respectively.

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9. Chocolate or chocolate-like products comprising a fat continuous dispersion, wherein the fat continuous dispersion is the dispersion of claims 1-8.

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10. Confectionery or bakery fillings, sweet spreads, bakery toppings, coatings, biscuit creams or ice-cream inclusions and/or coatings comprising a fat continuous fat dispersion, wherein the fat continuous dispersion is the dispersion of claims 1-8.

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11. Use of a viscosity and/or yield value lowering component in fat continuous dispersions wherein a long chain alcohol with at least 20 C-atoms is applied to lower the viscosity and/or yield value at working temperature of a fat continuous dispersion comprising particulated sweetener in amounts of more than 5 wt%.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 20 2775

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	GB 360 282 A (C.J. VAN HOUTEN EN ZOON) * page 1, line 67 - line 71 * * example 1 * * claim 1 *	1,4-11	A63G1/00 A23D9/007 A23G1/00 A23G3/00 A23G9/00
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 095, no. 002, 31 March 1995 & JP 06 327407 A (KANEGAFUCHI CHEM IND CO LTD), 29 November 1994 * abstract *	1-11	
Y	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 8826 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class D13, AN 88-179316 XP002056561 & JP 63 116645 A (NIPPON OILS & FATS CO LTD), 20 May 1988 * abstract *	1-11	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 012, no. 438 (C-544), 17 November 1988 & JP 63 164848 A (LOTTE CO LTD), 8 July 1988 * abstract *	1,10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) A23D A23G
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 015, no. 392 (C-0873), 4 October 1991 & JP 03 160950 A (T HASEGAWA CO LTD), 10 July 1991 * abstract *	1,10	
D,A	EP 0 654 262 A (DALMER S A LAB) 24 May 1995 * page 6; table 7 *	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 9 December 1998	Examiner Dekeirel, M
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